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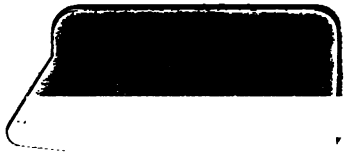
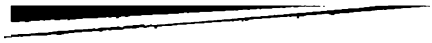


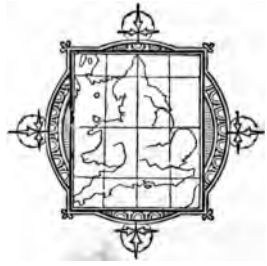


CHAMBERS'S

HISTORICAL READERS

BOOK I.

STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY



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PREFACE.

THIS Book of Stories from English History is intended to meet the requirements of Standard III. under the New Code.

Its aim is to introduce children to English History; and it seeks to present it in the way most interesting to them, namely, in the form of Stories, with as few dry facts and dates as possible. Only the most picturesque events are treated, especially such as have a directly important bearing on the history of the country.

Though it is not a detailed and continuous History, a connecting thread is supplied, sufficient to guide the reader along the main lines of English History.

Copious spelling columns have been added to each story, with meanings of words, and notes, when necessary.

This Book of Stories is the first of a series of four Historical Readers. It is made up of incidents chosen from the whole field of English History; and the other three form a continuous history of the country from the beginning to the present day.

The following are the Books of the series:

I. STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY.
II. ENGLAND TO 1327 A.D.
III. ENGLAND FROM 1327 TO THE REVOLUTION OF 1688 A.D.
IV. ENGLAND FROM THE REVOLUTION TO 1882.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
1.	Julius Cæsar	7
2.	Caractacus	11
3.	Vortigern and Rowena	13
4.	The Coming of Christianity to England	16
5.	Alfred the Great	18
6.	Dunstan	21
7.	Canute on the Sea-shore	23
8.	The Battle of Hastings	26
9.	The Death of William Rufus	29
10.	The White Ship	32
11.	Thomas à Becket	35
12.	Richard the Lion Heart in Prison	38
13.	John and the Great Charter	40
14.	The Doings of Edward Longshanks	43
15.	The Battle of Bannockburn	45
16.	The Battle of Cressy	48
17.	The Siege of Calais	51
18.	Wat Tyler and Richard II.	55
19.	The Battle of Agincourt	57
20.	Joan of Arc	60
21.	The Wars of the Roses	63
22.	The Princes in the Tower	66
23.	The Battle of Bosworth Field	69
24.	Wolsey and his Grandeur	72
25.	The Execution of Sir Thomas More	75
26.	Lady Jane Grey	78

PAGE

27. The Execution of Mary Stewart....81
28. The Invincible Armada....83
29. The Gunpowder Plot....86
30. The Execution of Charles I....89
31. The Plague and the Fire of London....91
32. The Siege of Londonderry....94
33. The Black Hole of Calcutta....96
34. The Tea in Boston Harbour....98
35. The Battle of Trafalgar....100
36. The Battle of Waterloo....103
37. The Abolition of Slavery....105
38. The Great Exhibition....107
39. The Charge of the Light Brigade....109
40. From Julius Cæsar to Victoria....110

DATES OF LEADING EVENTS.

	B.C.		A.D.
Landing of Julius Cæsar	55	Wars of the Roses end at Battle of Bosworth	1485
	A.D.	Defeat of Spanish Armada	1588
Beginning of the Roman Conquest	43	Crowns of England and Scotland united	1603
Coming of the Angles	449	Execution of Charles I	1649
Coming of Christianity	597	Restoration of Charles II	1660
Alfred the Great began to reign	871	Great Revolution	1688
Battle of Hastings	1066	American Independence	1776
Granting of the Great Charter	1215	Battle of Waterloo	1815
Conquest of Wales	1282	Abolition of Slavery	1833
Defeat at Bannockburn	1314	Great Exhibition	1851
Battle of Cressy	1346		
Battle of Agincourt	1415		

MAP OF ENGLAND,

Showing the places mentioned in the Book.

CHAMBERS'S
HISTORICAL READERS.

BOOK I.

STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY.

---

1. Julius Cæsar.

55 B.C.

1. The first great man who paid a visit to Britain was Julius Cæsar. He was a very famous warrior, and also a great writer of books. In one of these books he has told us what sort of people lived here when he came.

2. The people of this island were very different then from what they are now. Most of them were clad in skins; and they painted their bodies with curious figures.

3. The Britons, as these people were called, dwelt in poor huts; they had no good roads; and it was only in the south that a few patches of corn were to be seen. Most of the country, indeed, was covered with woods, in

which the wolf had his den, and the deer and the wild cattle wandered at large.

4. The Britons had great herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. Their food was chiefly the flesh and milk of these animals. But they also hunted the wild beasts, and they went to catch fish in little boats made of willow

Boats of the Ancient Britons.

twigs and covered with skins, and light enough to be carried on the back.

5. Yet the Britons were not quite a savage people. In the south of the country they knew how to weave cloth, and to build houses. They had war-chariots armed with sharp iron blades, with which they drove among the *ranks of their* enemies.

6. It was fifty-five years before the birth of Christ, when Julius Cæsar landed in Britain. He was a great Roman general, and came with a Roman army to conquer the country.

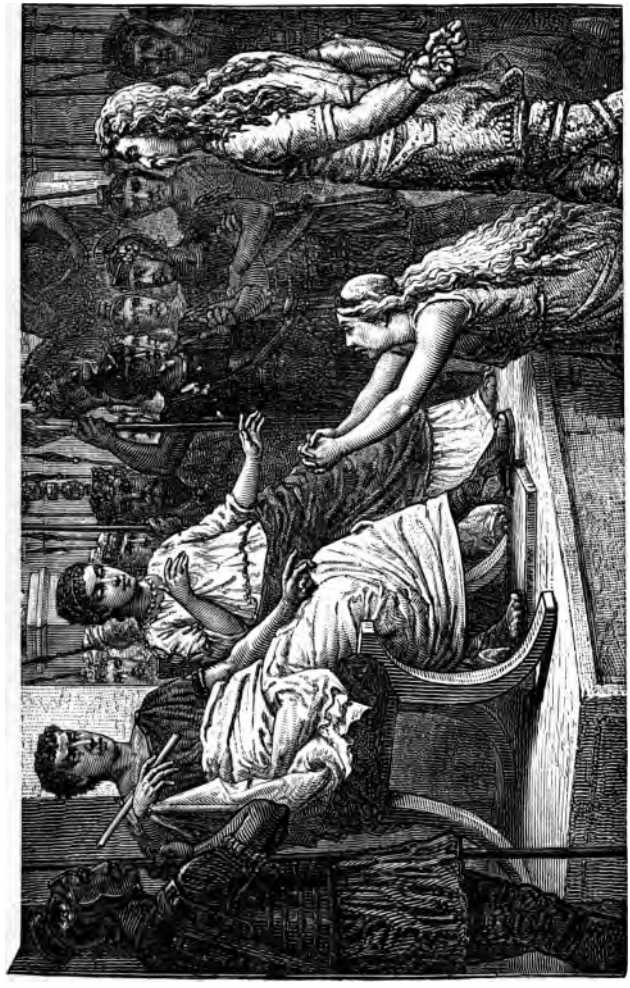
7. The Romans were a very brave and clever people, and had conquered almost the whole known world. There was scarcely a nation that dared to stand against them in battle.

8. So Julius Cæsar came to make himself master of Britain. He landed on the coast of Kent; and he tells us how he fought against the natives, and beat them in many a battle. The half-naked Britons, though they had horsemen and war-chariots, could do little against the well-trained Roman soldiers, clad in the strongest armour.

9. Yet the Britons were a brave people, who scorned to yield to an enemy. They tried very hard to overthrow the soldiers of Cæsar; but they were forced at length to confess themselves beaten. Cæsar, however, soon went away with his army; and for nearly a hundred years after, they were as free as ever.

war'-ri-or	cov'-ered	weave	ar'-mour
is'-land	wan'-dered	char'-i-ots	scorned
dif'-fer-ent	an'-i-mals	en'-e-mies	o-ver-throw'
cu'-ri-ous	wil'-low	con'-quer	sol'-diers
fig'-ures	sav'-age	na'-tives	con-fess'

Romans, people of Rome, the chief city of Italy.



Caractacus and his Wife before Claudius.

2. Caractacus.

51 A.D.

1. We have seen that Cæsar soon went away from Britain, leaving the natives to enjoy their old freedom. Almost a hundred years after, the Romans again sent ships with a great number of their soldiers to seize upon this little island. And again the Britons fought bravely for their country.

2. One of the bravest of these Britons was a noble chief or king named *Caractacus*. The hardest battle which the Romans had to fight was against this chief and his soldiers. The battle was fought among the Welsh mountains.

3. The Britons were beaten, and many were taken prisoners. Caractacus had to flee; but not long after, he and all his family were given up to the Romans. His hands and feet were made fast with chains, and he was carried to Rome, and brought before the emperor of Rome, whose name was Claudius.

4. The city of Rome was a splendid city, with fine marble and stone buildings, and long beautiful streets. As the British chief marched through the noble streets, and looked around him, he said that he could not under-

stand why the Romans should grudge the Britons their little huts of wood and turf!

5. The people of Rome came in crowds to look at the captive British chief, for we may be sure that they had heard much from their soldiers about his great bravery. And they were very much struck, and so was their emperor, by the noble look of the man, and his undaunted bearing.

6. It is pleasant to think that Claudius did not bear him any grudge for having defended his country so well, but had his chains struck off, and gave him back his freedom.

7. In spite of all that the brave Britons could do, the Romans made themselves masters of the country. They kept many thousands of soldiers in it; and ruled it for nearly four hundred years.

8. The Britons lost their freedom; but they learned a good deal from the Romans. They learned to build good houses, to have nice clothes, and to obtain all the comforts of life. The Romans also made many good roads and bridges, which exist even to this day.

sol'-diers	**pris'-on-ers**	**beau'-ti-ful**	**pleas'-ant**
chief	**fam'-i-ly**	**grudge**	**ob-tain'**
Car-ac'-ta-cus	**emp'-er-or**	**brav'-er-y**	**com'-forts**
moun'-tains	**Claud'-i-us**	**un-daunt'-ed**	**bridg'-es**

emperor, *ruler of* many countries. | **undaunted,** showing no fear.

3. Vortigern and Rowena.

449 A.D.

1. By-and-by the Romans sent for all their soldiers to go home and fight against their enemies there; and the Britons were left to take care of themselves. This they were not very well able to do; for under the Romans they had learned to be quiet and peaceable, and had lost much of their old bravery.

2. And now they were attacked by fierce enemies on every side. The Picts, from the mountains of Scotland, began to come and rob them. The Scots also came and made war upon them.

3. Other people also, called Angles, came over the sea from Germany, and attacked the Britons in their towns and on their farms. At last the poor Britons sent to ask the Romans to come back again. But they were too busy at home, and in too great danger themselves; and no soldiers could be spared to come to Britain.

4. So something else had to be done, and a British prince named Vortigern thought it would be a good plan to make friends with the Angles, and get them to help the Britons against the Picts and Scots. The Angles

were very ready to agree to this, for they were fond of fighting.

5. So a large band of them, headed by two chiefs, Hengest and Horsa, came in their

Meeting of Hengest and Vortigern.

long swift ships, and drove out the Picts *and Scots.* Then, as the story goes, they

settled down to live in a little island called Thanet, which Vortigern gave them, and which is not very far from London.

6. And their wives and daughters and many of their friends came from their own country, and joined them there. Among these ladies was Hengest's lovely daughter Rowena.

7. This lady was one day present at a great feast which her father gave to King Vortigern. She was so charming, that Vortigern fell in love with her on the spot, and wanted to marry her at once.

8. And he did marry her. Afterwards, when the Angles began to attack the Britons again, and to take their land from them, Vortigern used to be very angry. But, when he was going to punish them, Rowena begged of him to be kind to her people, and spare them for her sake.

9. He always listened to her, and the Angles got to be more and more strong in Britain, and to gain more and more land. And at last poor Vortigern lost his kingdom, and was put in prison, where he died.

en'-e-mies	dan'-ger	Hor'-sa	Row-e'-na
peace'-a-ble	Vor'-ti-gern	set'-tled	pun'-ish
at-tacked'	a-gree'	Than'-et	peo'-ple
a-gain'	Hen'-gest	la'-dies	[illegible]

Picts and Scots. The Picts were the people in the north of Britain, who had never been conquered by the Romans. The Scots crossed in boats from Ireland. It was the same people who settled in the west of Scotland, and gave their name to that country.

Thanet is still called the *Isle of Thanet;* but it is no longer an island. It lies in the east of Kent.

---

4. The Coming of Christianity to England.

597 A.D.

1. The Britons had heard about the true God. But the Angles, who conquered them, and took the land from them, were still heathens. They had never heard of the true God, and they looked down upon the Britons too much to learn anything from them.

2. It happened one day that some Angle or English children were standing in the market-place at Rome, where they had been sent to be sold. Like most of the Angles, they had fair skins, light hair, and blue eyes. In Rome, where nearly everybody is dark, this made people notice them very much.

3. A young priest who was passing by caught sight of them, and asked who they were. He was told that they were Angles. 'Ah!' he said, 'with faces so angel-like, they *should be not* Angles, but angels.' This

good man never forgot the fair children he had seen in the slave-market.

4. Years after, when he was made pope, he sent over a priest called Augustine to Britain. So Augustine came with a number of other priests to teach the religion of Christ to the Angle people.

5. Not long before this, Ethelbert, the king of Kent, had married a Christian princess from France, and Queen Bertha—for that was her name—was well pleased to welcome the good man who came from so far away to teach the rough English about God. And she got her husband to welcome him kindly too, and to listen to him.

6. At length, to her great joy, Ethelbert believed the good words of Augustine, and became a Christian. His people very soon followed his example, and it was not long before the new teaching spread to other parts of England. This we owe to the good Pope Gregory the Great, and to his kindly feelings for the little English slaves.

heath'-ens	**Au-gus'-tine**	**mar'-ried**	**fol'-lowed**
con'-quered	**re-lig'-ion**	**prin'-cess**	**ex-am'-ple**
hap'-pened	**Eth'-el-bert**	**wel'-come**	**kind'-ly**
no'-tice	**Chris'-tian**	**be-lieved'**	**feel'-ings**

heath'-ens, men who know nothing of the true God.

pope, head of the Church of Rome.

5. Alfred the Great.

BORN 849—DIED 901 A.D.

1. The first really great king that England had, perhaps the greatest she has ever had, was Alfred. He was the youngest of four brothers; but the other three died quite young, and so he became king.

2. When Alfred was twelve years old, none of the four brothers could read. Their mother had a beautifully painted book of poetry, which she used to show them for a treat.

3. One day she said: 'Now, I will give this book to the one who can first read it.' *Alfred made* up his mind to win it; and he

did, although he was the youngest. And he was ever afterwards fond of books and of reading.

4. But at first, when he became king, he had not much time for study. For the Danes, the warlike people who came from the northern country called Denmark, were always coming over in their swift ships and making war upon the English.

5. They used to burn the towns, and rob the people, and carry off the children, and make dreadful havoc and ruin wherever they went. For some years Alfred had to defend his country against the Danes; and after a good deal of fighting, he won a great victory over them.

6. But he was not hard on the conquered Danes. He told them that they might stay in England if they would become Christians, and lead honest, peaceable lives. And there was peace for a long time. Alfred had a great many ships built, so that if any more Danes came to attack England, they could be met and fought with on the sea, and not allowed to come on land and do harm to the country.

7. Now Alfred had time to think of other things besides fighting, and he made wise laws

for his people, and built schools, and asked learned men from other countries to come over and teach in them. He taught in the schools himself also, and he turned many of the old Latin books into English, so that his people could read them easily.

8. He set himself a task for every hour of the day, and as there were no clocks then, he used to mark his time by the burning of candles.

9. He had a disease which very often caused him terrible pain, but still he went bravely on working for his people. Though it is nearly a thousand years since he died, every Englishman to this day loves the name of ALFRED THE GREAT.

re'-al-ly	north'-ern	vic'-to-ry	eas'-il-y
broth'-ers	dread'-ful	peace'-a-ble	can'-dles
beau'-ti-ful-ly	hav'-oc	al-lowed'	dis-ease'
al-though'	wher-ev'-er	be-sides'	thou'-sand

poetry, sense written in rhyme. | **havoc**, destruction and slaughter.

Books. In those days, printing had not been invented. The few books they had were all written, the chief letters and words being often beautifully painted. The monks were very clever at doing this.

Danes, also called *Northmen* or Norsemen, because they came from the *North*.

Candles. A candle burned for six hours, and was marked off into parts, each of which burned for an hour. These candles were placed in a lantern, and burned night and day.

6. Dunstan.

DIED 984 A.D.

1. Next after King Alfred, the greatest Englishman we read of in the very old times was a priest named Dunstan.

2. He was born at Glastonbury, and was taught in the monastery there. He was very, very fond of music and poetry, and was so clever that the fame of his learning soon spread through the country.

3. King Athelstan heard of it, and sent for him to his court. Dunstan went, but he did not stay there long. For Athelstan was so charmed with the young man, that the courtiers became very jealous of him; and one day, as he was riding in the king's train, they threw him from his horse, bound him hand and foot, trampled upon him, and left him for dead in a marsh.

4. Dunstan was not dead, however. But he had a severe illness after, and no wonder! And when he got better, he made up his mind to become a monk. Great tales are told of his piety and labours. One good thing we certainly know about him, and that is, that he never wasted any time.

5. He was able to shoe horses; for the monks of those days were trained to turn their hands to anything. The things he liked best to do were playing the harp, painting, reading, and teaching.

6. After a time, Athelstan died, and Dunstan went to court again, where he became a very great man. He was now the chief

Edgar rowed by eight Under-kings.

servant of the kings, and under them ruled the country very wisely. When Edgar came to the throne, he made Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury, and gave him more power than ever.

7. He used this power so well, that the land was at peace nearly through the whole *of Edgar's* reign. All the king's enemies were

put down; and eight British under-kings rowed Edgar in his boat on the pleasant waters of the river Dee.

priest	**charmed**	**tramp'-led**	**wise'-ly**
mon'-as-ter-y	**cour'-tiers**	**ill'-ness**	**en'-e-mies**
clev'-er	**jeal'-ous**	**pi'-e-ty**	**pleas'-ant**

monk, a religious man who lives apart from the world. The place where monks live by themselves is called a monastery.

Glastonbury, a town in Somersetshire. It is one of the oldest seats of Christianity in England.

Canterbury, the capital of Kent.

Dee, a river in Cheshire. Chester stands on it.

---

7. Canute on the Sea-shore.

REIGNED 1017–1035 A.D.

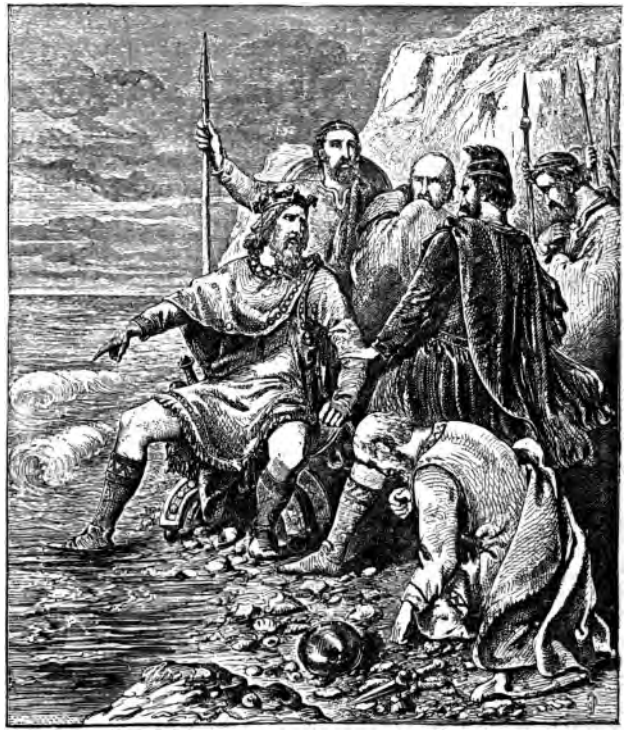
[After their defeat by Alfred, the Danes were not very troublesome for a long time. But during the reign of a weak king called Ethelred, they came again in great numbers. This time they conquered the country; and Danish kings ruled over England for some years.]

1. Canute was one of the Danish kings who sat upon the English throne. He was at first very hard and cruel to his enemies, but afterwards he became a Christian. Then, when the land was at peace, he treated his people kindly, and made wise and just laws.

2. In fact, the people were better off under their Danish king than if he had been an Englishman like themselves. And they loved him almost as well.

3. Some of his courtiers and servants used

to praise his power and wisdom in a very wrong and tiresome way, thinking that it



Canute rebuking his Courtiers.

would please him. At last Canute got quite tired of their flattery.

4. One day some of them went so far as to *call him* '*Lord* of Earth and Sea.' Upon this,

he told them to fetch a chair, and place it on the sea-shore, where the tide was fast coming in. They did so, and the king went and sat down in it, saying: 'Now, sea, I command thee not to wet my feet.'

5. His courtiers were amazed, for they thought that Canute had believed their foolish words, and fancied that he could really stop the waves. Of course the tide came on and drenched him; and then he got up and asked them if they saw the folly of what they had said. And he rebuked them for their wickedness in saying what they must have known not to be true.

6. Just think how ashamed his stupid flatterers must have felt! It is said that Canute would never wear his crown after this day, but had it hung up in the cathedral at Winchester, as an offering to GOD, who is the only 'Lord of Earth and Sea.'

Can'-ute	**serv'-ants**	**flat'-ter-y**	**a-shamed'**
aft'-er-wards	**pow'-er**	**a-mazed'**	**stu'-pid**
them-selves'	**wis'-dom**	**re-buked'**	**flat'-ter-ers**
cour'-tiers	**tire'-some**	**wick'-ed-ness**	**cath-e'-dral**

courtiers. The courtiers are the ladies and gentlemen who wait upon the king or queen.

flattery, false praise.

cathedral, a very large church, where there is a bishop.

8. The Battle of Hastings.

1066 A.D.

[After the Danish kings had ceased to reign, one of the old English royal family, Edward, called the Confessor because of his piety, became king. Edward had no children; and Harold, one of the nobles, and a great warrior, was chosen king after him.]

1. Harold was the last English king of the English. He was chosen by the people; but Duke William of Normandy said that he had a better claim to the throne of England. So he gathered together a great host, and brought them over in ships, and landed at Pevensey in Sussex.

2. Harold was in Yorkshire when he heard that William had landed. So he had to hurry through almost the whole length of England to meet his foe. He drew up his English on a hill called Senlac, not far from Hastings, and there he waited for the Norman attack.

3. On the Normans came, their armour shining in the sun of the October morning. A single knight rode on in front, throwing up his sword in the air and lightly catching it, and singing, as he came along, a song of French bravery and warlike deeds. Two Englishmen who rode out to meet him were killed by him; *but he fell by* the hand of a third.

4. The common soldiers of the Norman army fought chiefly with bows and arrows,

Norman Knights.

but their best men were mounted on horseback, and were clad in strong armour. The

English fought on foot, and were armed with battle-axes. The Normans found these battle-axes very deadly; for, time after time, as they rode up charging the English, men and horses were hewn down by them like wood. And still the English ranks stood firm and unbroken.

5. Seeing that he could not beat the English in fair fight, the crafty William ordered his men to pretend to run away. Many of the English followed them; and then the Normans turned upon them and cut them down. But even yet the hill was stubbornly held by Harold and those who were left with him, and night was coming on.

6. Then William turned and said to his archers: 'Shoot your arrows high up into the air, that they may fall upon the faces of the English.' They did so; a shaft pierced Harold's eye, and he fell dead. The English lost all hope when they saw their king laid low, and the field was won by the Normans.

7. Soon afterwards, William the Conqueror was crowned king of England in the new Abbey of Westminster, which Edward the Confessor had built. Before many years had passed, he had conquered the whole country. *Although* he was a harsh and terrible man,

he was a just and fair ruler, and made good laws.

Har'-old	sen'-lac	ar'-rows	field
chos'-en	wait'-ed	un-brok'-en	con'-quer-or
Wil'-li-am	at-tack'	craft'-y	ab'-bey
Nor'-man-dy	ar'-mour	fol'-lowed	West'-min-ster
Pev'-en-sey	catch'-ing	stub'-born-ly	harsh
York'-shire	brav'-er-y	pierced	ter'-ri-ble

Normandy, a country in the north-west of France. Bands of Northmen or Danes had settled here. The name Northmen had changed to Normans, the country being called Normandy. These Normans now spoke French. They were very clever men, and the best fighters in Europe.

---

9. The Death of William Rufus.

1100 A.D.

1. Our second Norman king was called William Rufus. *Rufus* is a Latin word for *red,* and he was so called because his hair was red and his face very ruddy. He was not at all a good king; and the English people hated him because he was unjust to them. He did not mind how wretched they were, so long as he got money enough. This money he used only to enjoy himself, and to do as he liked.

2. He was very fond of hunting. Now, his father, William the Conqueror, had made a great forest in Hampshire. It is now one of the oldest forests in England; but it is still

called the *New* Forest. In order to make this forest, he turned thousands of poor farmers and labouring people out of their homes.

3. William Rufus was very fond of hunting in the New Forest. He went out hunting as often as he could. And one day he went out with a large party of friends.

4. They slept at a house which the king had in the forest; and the next morning, as soon as the sun rose, they started off to hunt the red deer. They broke up into small parties, and went different ways, so as to find more game.

5. Rufus took with him only one of his knights—Sir Walter Tyrrel; and before starting, he gave him two fine long arrows. For there were no guns then, and people did all their shooting with bows and arrows.

6. That evening, a charcoal-burner coming through the forest, spied the body of a man lying in a pool of blood upon the ground amongst the bracken. It was the Red King, dead, with an arrow through his heart! The charcoal-burner lifted the body into his cart, and drove it to Winchester Cathedral, where it was buried.

7. *Whether* Sir Walter Tyrrel killed the

king on purpose, or whether the arrow struck him by accident, nobody knows. At anyrate,

Death of Rufus.

Sir Walter fled from the country. But some said that one of the poor people who had been turned out of house and home for the

sake of the king's sport, had lain in wait for the Red King, and had taken this fearful revenge.

Ru'-fus	**la'-bour-ing**	**spied**	**ac'-ci-dent**
rud'-dy	**dif'-fer-ent**	**brack'-en**	**coun'-try**
wretch'-ed	**Tyr'-rel**	**Win'-ches-ter**	**peo'-ple**
e-nough'	**eve'-ning**	**ca-the'-dral**	**fear'-ful**
for'-ests	**char'-coal**	**pur'-pose**	**re-venge'**

forest, wild ground, not cultivated, but not always covered with trees.

charcoal-burner. In those days people did not know of coal. Charcoal was made by *charring* or burning wood.

bracken, a kind of tall fern.

revenge, evil done to another person because evil has been done by him.

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10. The White Ship.

1120 A.D.

[After the death of William Rufus, his brother, Henry I., became king.]

1. Henry I. of England had an only son, called William. He took this son over to Normandy, to let him see the lands he was going to possess, and to meet the French nobles who would live under his rule.

2. When they were returning from France, and were just about to embark for England, a man went up to King Henry, and said: 'Sire! it was I who steered your father's ship when he sailed to conquer England.' And he *said he had* a fair vessel in the harbour, called

the *White Ship*, and manned by fifty sailors of renown; and would the king honour him by sailing in it?

Norman Ships.

3. Henry could not go in this ship himself, because all his plans were made; but the man

seemed so sorry, that he promised that his son William should go with him. So the prince and a number of his friends set sail in the *White Ship*.

4. There was much merry-making on board —dancing and singing and drinking. And the prince gave so much wine to the sailors that they got quite tipsy, so that they hardly knew what they were doing.

5. And as they rowed on through the darkness, all at once there was a shock and a crash! The *White Ship* had struck upon a rock, and the water was pouring in fast through the hole, and sinking her and all on board.

6. One boat there was, and into that the master of the vessel hurried the prince and one or two nobles. But, as they were rowing away, William heard the cries of the ladies on board, and he insisted on going back to try to save some of them.

7. That is the best thing we know of all his life; and it came only at the end. For so many poor wretches tried to jump into the boat, that it sank, and the prince and all his companions were drowned. Only one man, a butcher, was saved out of the whole ship's *crew of three* hundred.

8. Nobody dared tell King Henry at first of his son's death; but at last a little child was sent to tell him. When he heard the news, he fell on the ground like one dead. And he never again knew gladness, or was ever seen to smile.

pos-sess'	**ves'-sel**	**hon'-our**	**in-sist'-ed**
em-bark'	**har'-bour**	**prom'-ised**	**wretch'-es**
steered	**manned**	**tip'-sy**	**com-pan'-ions**
con'-quer	**re-nown'**	**hur'-ried**	**butch'-er**

embark, go into a *bark* or ship.
steered, guided.
renown, fame.
insisted, would have his own way.

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11. Thomas à Becket.

1170 A.D.

[Henry I. left one daughter named Matilda. After some time of fighting and confusion, Matilda's son, Henry II., ascended the throne.]

1. For a great part of the reign of Henry II., one of the most powerful men in England was Thomas à Becket. The king was very fond of him, and he made him his friend, and chancellor of the kingdom. And, although he was a priest, he led a very gay life.

2. By-and-by the Archbishop of Canterbury died; and Henry, who wanted to get more power than he had over the clergy, thought that Thomas à Becket would be just the man

to help him. So he made him archbishop. But Thomas was a changed man from that moment.

3. Instead of living gaily and splendidly, as he had done before, he wore sackcloth, and ate coarse food, and drank water only. And, instead of helping the king, and siding with him, he began to go against him.

4. Indeed, Becket stood out against the king so sturdily that the king was bitterly angry, and the archbishop was obliged to flee to France.

5. He stayed there for six years. At last, a meeting was brought about between him and Henry, and they were thought to have become friends again. Then Becket came back to England.

6. One of the first things he did on his return was to curse some of his enemies publicly in the cathedral at Canterbury. When Henry heard of this, he was very angry, and he cried: 'Will nobody rid me of this proud priest?'

7. Four knights who heard this, and who did not understand that the king was speaking in his passion, and without meaning to be taken at his word, rushed off at once out of *the king's* house. They took horse to the

coast, crossed the Straits of Dover, rode to Canterbury, and there murdered the archbishop in the cathedral itself.

8. When this dreadful news reached Henry, it filled him with grief and horror. Perhaps the love which he once had for Becket came back to him, and he remembered that they had been old friends and companions. At anyrate, he bitterly repented his own hasty words.

9. To show how sorry he was, he went to Canterbury; and, when he came in sight of the cathedral, he got down from his horse, took off his shoes, and walked barefoot to Becket's grave. There he knelt down, spent the day in weeping and mourning; and then he let himself be beaten by the monks with a scourge of knotted cords.

pow'-er-ful	sack'-cloth	pas'-sion	bit'-ter-ly
chan'-cel-lor	coarse	mur'-dered	re-pent'-ed
arch-bish'-op	stur'-di-ly	dread'-ful	walked
Can'-ter-bur-y	o-bliged'	grief	bare'-foot
cler'-gy	pub'-lic-ly	hor'-ror	knelt
gai'-ly	cath-e'-dral	re-mem'-bered	scourge
splen'-did-ly	un-der-stand'	com-pan'-ions	knot'-ted

sackcloth, cloth made of coarse sacking.
passion, anger.
horror, great fear.
scourge, a whip.

Chancellor, the highest law-officer in the country.
Clergy, a name given to priests or ministers of the church.

12. Richard the Lion Heart in Prison.

REIGNED FROM 1189 TO 1199 A.D.

1. After the death of Henry II., his son Richard became king of England. Richard I. was a very brave and warlike king. For this reason, and because he sometimes behaved kindly and generously to his enemies, he is called the *Lion Heart.*

2. He fought in a great war called a Crusade—that is, a war against the Turks in the Holy Land. The Turks were masters of Jerusalem; and they used to behave so badly to the pilgrims or Christians who went to pray at the grave of Christ, that the Christians began to think it would be a good thing to take Jerusalem from the Turks, so that any one who liked could go there in peace and safety.

3. So there were several wars which were called Crusades; and the Christians who fought in them were called Crusaders. The one that Richard joined was the third of them.

4. He and King Philip of France and the Duke of Austria fought together in it. By evil chance it happened that they quarrelled a *great deal* among themselves; and Philip soon

went home. Richard and the duke went on fighting, but on the whole they did not gain very much.

5. They also did not cease quarrelling. One day Richard lost his temper, and actually struck the duke, because he would not work, as Richard himself was doing, just like a common mason, to build up the walls of a town.

6. The Duke of Austria was so angry that he went home with all his soldiers. Then Richard made peace for a time, and he prepared to go home too. But on the way he was shipwrecked on the coast of Austria; and so he was obliged to go through the country of that very duke whom he had made his enemy.

7. Of course he did not want to be known, so he tried to pass himself off as a merchant. But he was found out, and was seized and thrown into prison. The people of England did not know for a long time what had become of him, and they were very anxious about their king.

8. The Emperor of Germany, into whose keeping the duke had given Richard, would not let him go without the payment of a great sum of money. But the English very gladly

raised that sum, and sent it to Germany to buy their king back again.

Rich'-ard	pil'-grims	quar'-relled	mer'-chant
be-haved'	safe'-ty	act'-u-al-ly	seized
gen'-er-ous-ly	Phil'-ip	ma'-son	anx'-ious
cru-sade'	Aus'-tri-a	pre-pared'	Ger'-man-y
Jer-u'-sa-lem	hap'-pened	ship'-wrecked	pay'-ment

Holy Land, Palestine, a country on the east of the Mediterranean.
Austria, the country, now an empire, in the south-east of Germany.

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13. John and the Great Charter.

1215 A.D.

1. On the death of Richard the Lion Heart, his brother John was made king of England. *He* was no lion heart, but a mean, wicked, selfish, and cruel man.

2. John was horribly cruel to his own people. He used to seize rich men, throw them into prison, and torture them to make them give him money. One man he seized and shut up, and ordered that one of his teeth should be pulled out every day until he would promise to give the king the sum of money he demanded.

3. John also quarrelled with the pope, but was at last obliged to give in. So he begged the pope's pardon very humbly, and took off his crown, and gave it into the hands of the legate

—as the pope's messenger was called—saying that the pope was the true king of England,

King John refusing to sign the Great Charter.

and that he could only reign by his favour. And then the legate gave him back the crown.

4. But the English were bitterly angry, for they did not choose to have their kingdom

bandied about in this way. And then the strong barons took the business into their own hands, met together, and swore that they would bind the king down to govern justly, and according to the law.

5. Well, they drew up a set of laws—some old and some new—such as they thought would best make sure the liberties of the English, and keep the king from oppressing and taxing them as he had always done.

6. This set of laws is called *The Great Charter;* and very few people have done so much lasting good to their country as those barons who drew it up, and forced King John to sign it. He was furious at being forced to agree to it, and at first quite refused to do so; but the barons were too strong for him. They not only made him sign the charter, but named twenty-four barons out of their own number to see that he kept it.

wick'-ed	**de-mand'-ed**	**reign**	**lib'-er-ties**
self'-ish	**quar'-relled**	**fa'-vour**	**op-press'-ing**
hor'-ri-bly	**begged**	**ban'-died**	**chart'-er**
seize	**leg'-ate**	**business**	**fu'-ri-ous**
tor'-ture	**mes'-sen-ger**	(*biz'-nes*)	**num'-ber**

torture, give great pain.
demanded, asked and would have.
oppressing, keeping under and hurting.

The Great Charter was signed by King John at **Runnymede**, not far from Windsor.

14. The Doings of Edward Longshanks.

1272–1307 A.D.

[Edward Longshanks was the grandson of King John, who signed Magna Charta. Edward came to the throne after his father Henry III., whose reign was a very long one.]

1. Edward I. was called *Longshanks* because his legs were so long and slender. He was one of the bravest of our kings. When he was very young he fought against the barons who had risen against his father Henry III., and defeated them in battle.

2. Edward wanted to make the whole island into one kingdom as it is now, instead of having a prince of Wales and a king of Scotland, as well as a king of England.

3. The Welsh were the children of those old Britons who were once the masters of all England, and who were driven into Wales when the country was conquered by the Angles. Edward now followed them into their mountain homes in the north of Wales, and conquered them there.

4. As the story goes, Edward told the Welsh that he would give them a prince born in their own country, who had never spoken any other language than theirs. And he showed them his baby son, born a little

while before at the castle of Carnarvon, who had of course never spoken at all!

5. He was only Edward's second son then, but the eldest soon died; and ever since that time, the eldest son of our kings or queens has been called **Prince of Wales**. And we have had no more wars with Wales.

6. But the wars with Scotland which followed were long and terrible. They came about in this way. There was a little Norwegian princess who would have been queen of Scotland if she had lived, and she was going to be married to King Edward's son. But on her way from Norway, the little girl died.

7. Then nobody knew who ought to rule Scotland; and so many persons thought they had a right to reign over it, that at last they came to King Edward to ask him which of them should rule. He chose John Baliol, but he insisted that he himself was head-king or over-king of Scotland, and that Baliol could only rule under him.

8. Now, when the Scotch would not have this, Edward led an army against them, and conquered their country. And the English were masters there for a time.

9. But by-and-by a brave man called *William Wallace*, who loved his country dearly,

came forward to lead the Scotch, and he won great victories. After a time he was taken, however, and Edward had him put to a cruel and shameful death.

10. After him, another brave man, whose name was Robert Bruce, rose up to fight for Scotland. Edward was just marching to put him down, when he was taken ill, and died on the way, strictly charging his son Edward never to rest till he had conquered Scotland.

Long'-shanks	**Car-nar'-von**	**Ba'-li-ol**	**how-ev'-er**
slen'-der	**fol'-lowed**	**in-sist'-ed**	**cru'-el**
de-feat'-ed	**Nor-we'-gian**	**Wal'-lace**	**shame'-ful**
lan'-guage	**mar'-ried**	**vic'-to-ries**	**died**

Carnarvon, a town in the north of Wales.

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15. The Battle of Bannockburn.

1314 A.D.

1. Edward II. did not trouble himself much about Scotland, or about the wishes of his father, Edward Longshanks. Instead of looking after Scotland and trying to keep it, he was busy quarrelling and fighting with the nobles. And all this time Robert Bruce, whom the Scotch had taken for their king, was winning back, one after another, the castles and strong places which had been taken from them by Edward I.

2. At last, when the king and the barons had been at war for some months, news came that only one castle in Scotland—that of Stirling, a very strong and large one—was

Stirling Castle.

left to the English. Word was also brought, that if help did not come speedily, they could not hold this castle against the Scotch.

3. Even the careless Edward was roused by this news. He and his lords stopped fighting, and marched to Stirling with a large army. There they found King Robert Bruce, with his little army—not half so big as their own—drawn up between the castle *walls and* the little brook, or *burn*, of Bannock.

4. As soon as the English came up, Bruce cheered the hearts of his men by showing his great strength and bravery in fighting with an English knight. This knight saw Bruce riding in front of his army on a small pony, with just a light battle-axe in his hand, and a gold crown on his head.

5. So he thought: 'Why, here is this Scottish king quite at his ease; not at all able to fight anybody who is well armed and mounted! I could almost run him down by riding upon him with my great war-horse in its heavy steel plates and trappings.'

6. And he rode furiously straight upon Bruce, and made a lunge at him with his spear. But Bruce turned the spear aside; and, lifting his battle-axe, he cleft the skull of that English knight in two.

7. When the battle began, the Scotch did not fail to follow their king's example of coolness and bravery. They fought so well and so bravely, that their enemies began to give way before them. Just then the English saw a crowd of people coming towards them from the hills; and thinking that these were another body of Scottish soldiers, they were struck with terror.

8. They were not soldiers at all—only a

number of servants and camp-followers, who were coming down to see what they could get; but the English were too much in a panic to wait and find out what they really were. Their horsemen tried to charge the Scotch army; but Bruce had had pits dug in the ground, and covered over so that they could not be seen; and into these the horses and riders rolled, so that the rout and panic were complete.

9. The Scotch are still proud to remember the great victory of Bannockburn, and the great leaders Wallace and Bruce, by whom their freedom was won.

Ban'-nock-burn	**speed'-i-ly**	**cleft**	**pan'-ic**
trou'-ble	**roused**	**skull**	**horse'-men**
win'-ning	**trap'-pings**	**ex-am'-ple**	**com-plete'**
cas'-tles	**fu'-ri-ous-ly**	**brav'-er-y**	**re-mem'-ber**
bar'-ons	**lunge**	**sol'-diers**	**vic'-to-ry**

panic, fright. | **rout**, confused flight.

Stirling, a beautiful city on the river Forth.

Camp-followers, all those who follow an army, but take no part in the battle.

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16. **The Battle of Cressy.**

1346 A.D.

1. Edward III. was a brave king, and very fond of fighting. Because his mother was a French princess, he thought that he

ought to be king of France as well as of England. And when the French people did not see that, but took his cousin Philip for their king, he made war upon France.

2. He took over a small army of Englishmen, and, at a little place called Cressy, in the north of France, he met Philip, who had with him a mighty host. This host was about eight times as many as the English were.

3. The French king ordered his crossbowmen to begin the attack; but the English archers, who had long bows, sent them such a volley of arrows in return for theirs, that the air was white with the shafts, as if it snowed. The crossbow-men fell back before it, and Philip was so enraged at their giving way, that he shouted to his soldiers to kill them.

4. King Edward did not take any part in the battle at all. He had given up the command to his son, Prince Edward, who was only sixteen years of age; and he himself looked on at the fight from a windmill on a hill close by.

5. Once, when the English were hard pressed, and the battle seemed to be going against them, some one rode up and asked the king to go to his son's help. But, when he heard that the prince was neither wounded nor unhorsed, he refused. For he said, 'I

have set my heart on my son's proving himself a brave knight, and I wish the honour of the day to be his.'

6. We can well fancy that when such words as these were repeated to the prince, he would be all the more eager to win the day. And he did win it. Philip was utterly beaten, and the French left more men dead upon the field than there were in the whole English army.

7. Among those killed was the old blind king of Bohemia. When he found that the French were losing, he asked the knights who were near him to lead him into the thick of the fight, so that he might at least strike one good blow. They did so, and he fell. Young Edward took his crest, three ostrich feathers, and his motto, which was in German words, meaning *I serve;* and these are the crest and motto of the Prince of Wales to this day.

8. The English were very proud of their brave young prince, and so was his father. He is always called **The Black Prince;** and this battle of Cressy was only one of many great victories that were won by him.

be-cause'	cross-bow'-men	com-mand'	ea'-ger
prin'-cess	arch'-ers	wind'-mill	ut'-ter-ly
cous'-in	vol'-ley	re-fused'	Bo-he'-mi-a
Cres'-sy	en-raged'	hon'-our	os'-trich
or'-dered	shout'-ed	re-peat'-ed	feath'-ers

host, a very large army. | **unhorsed**, thrown from his horse.

Bohemia, a country to the east of Germany; now part of Austria.

Crest and motto. The sign supposed to be worn on the helmet is called the *crest*. The *motto* is a short pithy saying, written above a picture of the crest.

The Black Prince, so called from the colour of his armour, was the eldest son of Edward III.

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17. The Siege of Calais.

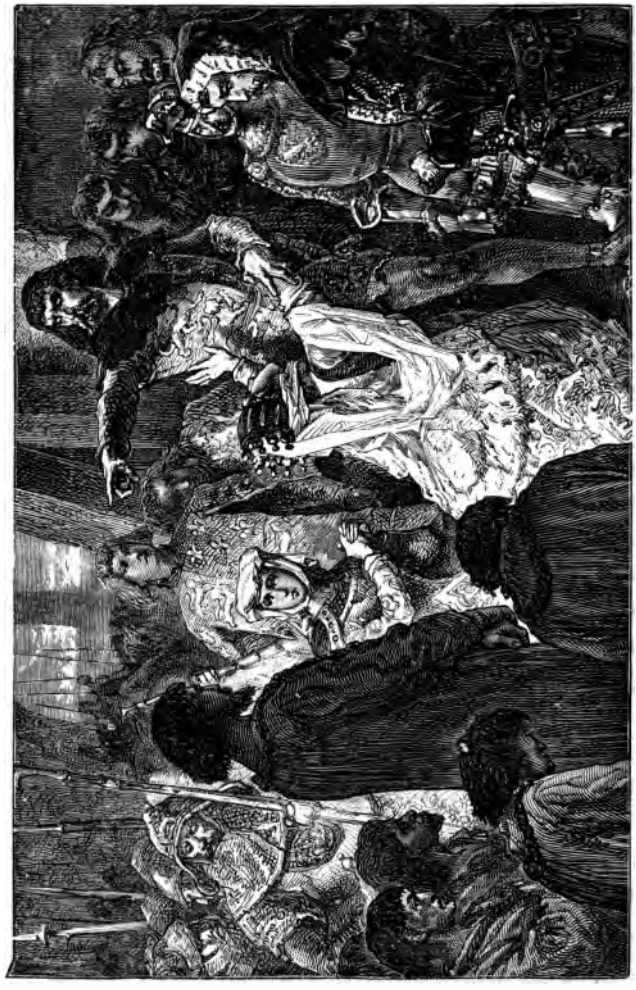
1347 A.D.

1. There was one town which Edward III. very much wanted to get into his hands. This was Calais, the town which stands on the French coast opposite to Dover.

2. The soldiers of King Edward laid siege to it for nearly a whole year. No one could go in or out; and in no long time the townsfolk had finished all the food in the town, and were in great distress and misery. At last, they could hold out no longer, and were obliged to give in.

3. So they sent word to King Edward that they would open their gates; but that they hoped and prayed he would not deal very hardly with them. He sent back word that he would only spare the town on one condition.

4. This was, that the keys should be handed



Queen Philippa pleading for the Prisoners.

to him by six of the principal townsmen, bareheaded, barefooted, clad only in their shirts, and with ropes round their necks, and that these men should give themselves up to him to be dealt with according to his own will and pleasure.

5. A meeting of the people was called; and one of the chief men, who was the richest in the town, rose and spoke. He declared himself ready, for the love of God and of the people, to be the first victim, if five others would go with him. This noble speech fired the hearts of all who heard it, and very soon five noble gentlemen declared themselves ready to follow him.

6. It is said that even the English knights and soldiers shed tears as they came up. Edward alone remained stern, severe, and unmoved by the sight of so much heroism. And, although those around him begged him to show mercy, he gave orders for the heads of the six brave gentlemen of Calais to be at once cut off.

7. This was just going to be done. But Edward's wife, the good Queen Philippa, was melted by this sorrowful news. She had quite lately come over from England to join her husband; and while all this was

going on, she was in her tent close by. And when she was told how hard and cruel the king was in his purpose, she threw herself in tears at his feet, and prayed him for her sake to be merciful, and to let the poor men go free.

8. And for her sake he did, although it was much against his will. He said: 'I wish you had been somewhere else; but I cannot refuse you.'

9. So she clothed the six heroes in rich dresses, and gave them a hearty dinner. And when they went back into the town which they had saved, there was such rejoicing as had not been seen for many a long year.

op'-pos-ite	**o-bliged'**	**de-clared'**	**cru'-el**
sol'-diers	**prayed**	**vic'-tim**	**pur'-pose**
siege	**con-di'-tion**	**gen'-tle-men**	**mer'-ci-ful**
towns'-folk	**prin'-ci-pal**	**knights**	**re-fuse'**
fin'-ished	**them-selves'**	**se-vere'**	**he'-roes**
dis-tress'	**dealt**	**her'-o-ism**	**heart'-y**
mis'-er-y	**pleas'-ure**	**Phil-ip'-pa**	**re-joic'-ing**

laid siege, set men round for the purpose of taking.

principal, chief.

heroism, very great bravery.

Calais (*Cal'-ay*), a town in the north-west of France, almost opposite Dover. It used to be called the 'Key of France.'

Dover, a town in the south-east of Kent, almost opposite Calais. It used to be called the 'Key of England.'

18. Wat Tyler and Richard II.

1381 A.D.

1. Richard II. was the son of the great soldier called **The Black Prince**. He became king when he was quite a little boy, on the death of his grandfather, Edward III.

2. The noblemen who governed for him laid some very heavy taxes upon the people. One of these was called the *poll-tax*. Everybody above the age of fifteen was obliged to pay it; and sometimes the men who were sent to collect it behaved very harshly and rudely.

3. One of them was so rude to the daughter of a man in Kent called Wat Tyler, that her father in his anger struck him dead. Then all the people round about rose up, and taking Wat Tyler for their leader, they marched upon London.

4. They came so suddenly, that the city was quite at their mercy; but on the whole they were better behaved and more orderly than might have been expected. After a day or two the king met them, and promised to grant all they asked; but Wat Tyler was not present at the meeting. The next day, however, he met Richard, and rode up to speak to him.

5. He laid his hand on the king's bridle; and this seems to have frightened the Lord Mayor, who perhaps thought that he was going to do some great harm to the king. He struck Wat from his horse, and one of the king's soldiers at once fell upon him and stabbed him.

6. The mob bent their bows, and would have avenged the death of their leader, if it had not been for Richard's courage, presence of mind, and quickness. Boy as he was, he at once rode forward, and cried out to them: 'Good fellows, have you lost your leader? Then follow me; I am your king, and will be your leader and guide!'

7. They followed him into the fields; and there the king repeated his promise that their wrongs should be set right, and the mob went quietly away to their homes. It would have been pleasant, if we could have said that Richard kept his promise; but he did not. Perhaps he was not able, for he was a mere boy, and the government was not in his own hands.

grand'-fath-er	be-haved'	sud'-denly	stabbed
no'-ble-men	harsh'-ly	or'-der-ly	a-venged'
gov'-erned	rude'-ly	ex-pect'-ed	cour'-age
tax'-es	daugh'-ter	prom'-ised	pres'-ence
poll'-tax	Ty'-ler	fright'-ened	fields
col-lect'	marched	may'-or	gov'-ern-ment

obliged, forced.
collect, to gather.
avenged, paid back for an injury.

Poll-tax, a tax on the *poll* or head—that is, a tax on each living person. This was a very hateful thing, as taxes were usually laid on articles bought and sold.

Wat Tyler, Walter the *Tiler.* He was a *tiler* by trade.

Lord Mayor, the chief magistrate of a city. Only the mayors of London, York, and Dublin are called *Lord* Mayors.

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19. The Battle of Agincourt.

1415 A.D.

[Richard II. was driven from the throne by his cousin, Henry of Lancaster, who became king with the title of Henry IV. After Henry IV., his son Henry V., who won the famous Battle of Agincourt, became king.

1. For a long, long time there was war between England and France. This was because a great many of our kings thought

it was their right to be kings of France as well as kings of England.

2. Henry V., one of the bravest kings we ever had, thought so too, and among the very first things he did after coming to the throne, was to prepare for carrying on the fighting with France, which had been stopped for a little while.

3. So Henry led an army over into France. It was not a very big army at first, and there was soon so much illness among the men that in a very short time only about half of it was left. But the king had made up his mind not to give in and go home. He marched on until he met the great French host. And then he got ready for battle.

4. The king saw to everything himself, and kept up the hearts of his men by his own cheerful face and bright eyes. When some one said what a pity it was that they had not with them some of the brave men who were left at home in England, Henry declared that he did not wish to have one more. 'If God give us the victory,' he said, 'the fewer we are, the more honour there will be to share among us. If not, the fewer we are, the smaller will be the loss to England.'

5. Well, the English archers at the outset

drove back the French horse, blinding them with their arrows, and maddening them so that they rolled over one another and trampled on their riders. Then eighteen French knights came up who had sworn to kill the English king; but he and those around him fought so bravely, that not one of those eighteen got away alive.

6. Everybody could see where Henry was, because he wore a gold crown over his helmet. A piece of it was struck off once, while he was guarding the royal flag of England, but he was not hurt.

7. The English, seeing their king always in the thick of the battle, fought like lions. The French fought bravely too, but it was of no use. Before night had come, all those who were not killed or made prisoners had run away, and left the English flag floating in triumph over the field of the **Battle of Agincourt.**

brav'-est	**cheer'-ful**	**tramp'-led**	**roy'-al**
throne	**few'-er**	**a-live'**	**pris'-on-ers**
car'-ry-ing	**out'-set**	**hel'-met**	**float'-ing**
ill'-ness	**mad'-den-ing**	**guard'-ing**	**tri'-umph**

outset, beginning. | **triumph,** victory.

Agincourt, a small village and castle not far from Calais, in the north-west of France.

20. Joan of Arc.

BORN 1412—BURNT 1431 A.D.

[The English carried on war in France for many years after the battle of Agincourt. Henry VI., the infant son of Henry V., was crowned king both of France and England. The English armies conquered a great part of France, shedding much blood, and causing frightful misery. At last there arose one to free France from her enemies. This was a simple country maiden, known as Joan of Arc.]

1. In a little village in the east of France, there lived a country girl

Joan of Arc at the Siege of Orleans.

whose name was Joan of Arc. She was a very good girl, and she had helped to nurse and feed some of the poor people who had been robbed and hurt by the soldiers, and she had seen what great misery this terrible war between England and France brought.

2. She thought a great deal about this when she was sitting at her spinning-wheel, or when she was watching her father's sheep on the lonely hillsides. Indeed, her mind was so full of it that she could think of nothing else, and at last she came to believe that God had sent her to free France from the English.

3. So she said she must go to the king's eldest son, who was the true heir to the crown of France, and fight and open a way for him to the old city where the French kings were always crowned. Her father tried to keep her back; but she was so unhappy, that in the end he was obliged to let her go.

4. Well, she went to the king's son, and she told him and everybody how God had sent her to lead him to the city where the kings of France were crowned. And now the French soldiers began to take new heart, for they thought that God was on their side. They at once marched to Orleans, a town which the English were besieging.

5. Joan rode at their head on a white horse, carrying a white banner, and clad in shining armour. She soon found her way into the town, bringing with her a strong army and an abundant store of provisions for the starving people. Then she attacked the towers which the English had raised round the city. The English were so afraid of her that they were easily beaten, and so the town was saved. After that, Joan was called through the whole of France the **Maid of Orleans.**

6. The French went on conquering, still led by her, until at last the king's son was crowned king of France. Then the maid said her work was done, and would it please the king to let her go home. But the king said No! she must stay with him and go on leading the army.

7. So Joan stayed, although she would much rather have gone back to tend her sheep again, and be a quiet village-girl once more. At last she was taken prisoner by the English, who had always hated her, and who believed she was a witch.

8. The French king, for whom she had done so much, never tried to get her out of their hands. The English brought her before a judge, who cruelly sentenced her to be burnt alive.

vil'-lage	hill'-sides	be-sieg'-ing	eas'-il-y
coun'-try	be-lieve'	ban'-ner	con'-quer-ing
nurse	crowned	ar'-mour	witch
ter'-ri-ble	un-hap'-py	ab-und'-ant	judge
spin'-ning-wheel	o-bliged'	pro-vis'-ions	cru'-el-ly
watch'-ing	marched	tow'-ers	sen'-tenced

misery, suffering and sorrow. | **banner**, war-flag.
terrible, dreadful, causing fear. | **sentenced**, condemned.

Joan of Arc—that is, Joan of the village called *Arc*.

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21. The Wars of the Roses.

1455—1485 A.D.

1. The reign of Henry VI. brought no glory, but a great deal of trouble to England. He was such a weak, helpless king, that the barons could do just as they liked with him; and some of them got to be very powerful indeed. And then the Duke of York said he had a better right to be king than Henry, and a great many people wanted him to take the crown, because they thought he would rule better.

2. Henry himself would not have minded, for he was very meek and gentle. But his queen, Margaret, was determined not to give up the rights either of her husband or of her little son Edward. So they prepared for fighting.

3. The Yorkists, or friends of the Duke of

York, took for their badge a White Rose. The king's followers, who were called Lancastrians, because his great-grandfather was Duke of Lancaster, wore a Red Rose. And their wars are always called the Wars of the Roses.

4. Perhaps they were the most terribly cruel wars we ever had in England. Whichever side won a battle, showed no mercy at all to the conquered. The Duke of York was taken prisoner at Wakefield, and he was beheaded at once; and his little son, who was running away after the battle, was stabbed by one of Queen Margaret's fierce friends.

5. But the fighting did not end with the death of the Duke of York; his eldest son Edward carried it on. He won a great many battles, and took poor Henry prisoner, and had himself proclaimed king. But still Margaret would not give in.

6. A story is told that after one of these battles, she was trying to escape with her little son, when she came upon some robbers in a wood, and in running away from them she only met with another fierce outlaw. She knelt down and begged him to save the boy, the son of his rightful king; and the robber was so touched, that he swore to pro-

tect both her and the prince. He led them safely to their friends in Northumberland, whence they escaped into France, and for a little while the fighting ceased.

7. But the new king, Edward IV., soon quarrelled with one of his most powerful

Queen Margaret and the Robber.

barons, the great Earl of Warwick. This earl was so powerful, that Edward in a great measure owed his victories to him, and he is often called the *King-maker*.

8. After quarrelling with Edward, Warwick went to France, and made friends with Margaret. Then he came back, and caused

Edward to leave the country, after which he brought Henry VI. out of prison, and put him on the throne again.

9. Edward, however, soon returned, and beat the Lancastrians in a battle where Warwick was killed. Then he went on to meet Margaret and her son, defeated them, and took them prisoners. He was cruel enough to have the prince stabbed before his mother's eyes, in his own presence. And then poor half-witted King Henry was put to death too, and so there was an end of the Red Rose.

trou'-ble	Lan-cas'-tri-ans	right'-ful	War'-wick
gen'-tle	be-head'-ed	rob'-ber	meas'-ure
de-ter'-mined	fierce	touched	vic'-to-ries
ei'-ther	pro-claimed'	pro-tect'	pres'-ence
badge	es-cape'	quar'-relled	half-wit'-ted

determined, made up his mind to. | **proclaimed,** made publicly known.

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22. The Princes in the Tower.

1483 A.D.

1. When Edward IV. died, his eldest son, who became Edward V., was only a little boy, thirteen years of age. The most powerful nobleman in England then was Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the brother of the late king.

2. He was a very clever and a very bold man, but he was far from being good. He made a great show of being fond of the little king, and he was one of the first to swear to be faithful to him.

3. He had himself made Protector of the kingdom, that is, the lord who was to rule for his nephew until he was grown up. Now the queen, Edward's mother, knew very well that the Duke of Gloucester was her enemy, and she did not believe that he loved her son so dearly as he pretended to do.

4. She was terribly afraid of him. She was so much afraid of him, that she took her daughters and her other son, the little Duke of York, and went and shut herself up in a place of safety.

5. The young king was living now in the Tower of London, and Richard and his friends said that his little brother ought to come and be with him, and be his playmate. The poor queen refused for a long time to let him go, but at last she was persuaded by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thus Gloucester got both boys into his power.

6. Now Gloucester's friends began to go about among the people, saying how much better it would be for the country if he were

king, instead of the little Edward. And before very long they offered him the crown.

7. He pretended to be very much surprised,

The Princes sleeping.

and quite shocked at the idea of taking it from his nephew; but of course he ended by *saying* he would take it. The little princes

were sent from that part of the Tower which was kept for the king, into another part where prisoners were confined.

8. It is said that Richard tried to get the governor of the Tower to murder them, but that he refused to have anything to do with so wicked a deed. Then the king sent him away for a day, and hired two vile wretches to come and smother the poor little boys as they lay peacefully sleeping together.

9. Two hundred years afterwards, some bones, which seemed to be the bones of children of thirteen and nine, were found buried at the foot of a staircase in the Tower. These are believed to have been the bones of the young Edward V. and his little brother the Duke of York.

pow'-er-ful	**pro-tect'-or**	**per-suad'-ed**	**con-fined'**
Gloucester	**neph'-ew**	**Can'-ter-bur-y**	**gov'-ern-or**
(*Glos'-ter*)	**daugh'-ters**	**sur-prised'**	**stair'-case**

protector, one who takes charge of affairs.

confined, shut up.

vile, very base.

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23. The Battle of Bosworth Field.

1485 A.D.

1. Richard III. made some wise laws, and some think he really wanted to be a good king, and to rule England well. But people

could not forget the wicked way in which he had got the crown, or forgive the murder of the two innocent little princes in the Tower.

2. Besides, there were many people who thought that another man had a better right than Richard to be king. This was Henry Tudor, the Earl of Richmond. Henry was the son of a lady of the royal House of Lancaster. As we have seen, it was between this House and the House of York, to which Richard belonged, there had been that deadly struggle for the crown called the Wars of the Roses.

3. The Tudors were a Welsh family, and had come from one of the old princes of Wales. Most likely, if Richmond had been in the king's power, he would have been put to death, or at least thrown into prison; but he was wise enough to keep out of England till it was time to act.

4. Very many of the nobles joined his banner; and he promised, if he came to the throne of England, to take for his wife the Princess Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV., and so to unite the two Houses of York and Lancaster. He landed in Wales with a small army, and marched towards Leicester, where the king was—the Welshmen *flocking to* join his army as he came along.

5. The two armies met at Market Bosworth, and there was fought the great battle which is called the battle of Bosworth Field. Richard had the larger army at first; but when the fighting commenced, a great many of the nobles left him and went over to Henry.

6. Richard grew desperate when he saw so many of those whom he had thought his friends on the side of the enemy. Shouting, 'If no one will go with me, I will go alone,' he rushed into the thickest of the fight, and tried to hew his way to Richmond; and he had cut down the standard-bearer of the Lancastrians before he was overthrown and killed.

7. His crown was found, all battered and blood-stained, in a hawthorn bush, and Lord Stanley placed it on the head of the Earl of Richmond, who thus became Henry VII. The body of Richard III., the last of our kings who bore the name of Plantagenet, was thrown across the back of a horse, and so was carried into Leicester to be buried.

Bos'-worth	**strug'-gle**	**des'-per-ate**	**car'-ried**
field	**prom'-ised**	**en'-e-my**	**Leicester**
in'-no-cent	**El-iz'-a-beth**	**bat'-tered**	(*Les'-ter*)
Lan'-cas-ter	**u-nite'**	**Plan-ta'-gen-et**	**bur'-ied**

desperate, quite hopeless. | **standard**, war-flag.

Market Bosworth, a town in Leicestershire.

24. Wolsey and his Grandeur.

DIED 1530 A.D.

[After the death of Henry VII., his son Henry VIII. ascended the throne, and reigned for many years.]

1. Henry VIII.'s great favourite in the early part of his reign was a very clever priest named Thomas Wolsey. He was also gay and witty, and splendid in his habits and ways of life—and all of these things Henry liked.

2. Wolsey was the son of a butcher, but he grew to be second to no man in the whole of England, except the king himself. Henry gave him two bishoprics, besides making him Archbishop of York. Then the pope made him a cardinal, and gave him the power to speak for him and act for him in England, which was called being a *Legate*. So we see he was a very great person indeed.

3. Wolsey had a number of very fine large houses. Two of these, Hampton Court and Whitehall, have been used since as royal palaces. In these grand houses he lived in state, just as if he had been a king or a prince.

4. There were no fewer than five hundred gentlemen of noble birth in his household; and they used to ride out on splendid horses, with Wolsey at their head, sitting on a mule, with a *red* velvet saddle and bridle, and golden

stirrups. The cardinal was dressed from head to foot in scarlet, and his very shoes were set with jewels!

5. But although Wolsey was so fond of making a great show, he was a good servant and a steady friend to King Henry.

6. Now, several of the king's children had died, and he took it into his head that God was angry with him for having married Catharine of Aragon. So he wanted to get the pope and the clergy to say that it would be right for him to send Queen Catharine away, and to marry another wife.

7. Wolsey had no objection to this, for the queen and he were not great friends. But he wanted Henry to take for his second wife some grand foreign princess, who would bring both treasure and power to the country. And Henry had quite made up his mind to marry, and did marry, an English lady called Anne Boleyn, who was very lovely, but had no money.

8. He never forgave Wolsey for advising him against this. He promised Anne never to see the cardinal again, and he stripped him of his riches and honours, and sent him away to York, to live there.

9. Henry only left him there for a year, however, and then he sent for him to come

to London to be tried for high treason. But Wolsey never reached London.

10. He had been really fond of the king, and this treatment broke his heart. He died

Henry dismissing Wolsey.

at Leicester, in the abbey there; and his last words were: 'Had I but served my God as diligently as I have served my king, He would not have given me over in my gray hairs!'

fa'-vour-ite	**leg'-ate**	**Ar'-a-gon**	**stripped**
wit'-ty	**stir'-rups**	**ob-jec'-tion**	**treas'-on**
bish'-op-rics	**stead'-y**	**for'-eign**	**ab'-bey**
card'-in-al	**Cath'-ar-ine**	**treas'-ure**	**dil'-i-gent-ly**

foreign, belonging to another country.

high treason, a crime against the king or the state.

Hampton Court, a palace on the Thames, above London.
Whitehall, a building not far from the Houses of Parliament.
Aragon, *a province* in Spain.

25. The Execution of Sir Thomas More.

1535 A.D.

1. In the reign of Henry VIII. there lived a great and good man called Sir Thomas More. He was very learned and very witty; and Henry was so fond of him, and liked his wit so much, that he wanted to have him always with him.

2. Nearly all the great men of that time were More's friends. They used to go and talk with him in his house at Chelsea, where he lived a happy life with his wife and children, whom he dearly loved.

3. After the fall of Wolsey, the king made Sir Thomas More his chancellor and chief adviser. But More was a very true, good, and religious man. He had been brought up in the old religion, and he loved it. That religion taught those who held to it that the pope was the head of the church.

4. When Henry wanted to put away one wife, and marry another, he could not get the pope's leave to do it. So he quarrelled with the pope, and said openly that he himself, as king, was head of the church in England.

5. Sir Thomas More could not agree with

the king in claiming to be head of the church; so he gave up his place as chancellor. Even then, Henry would have him say that he

Sir Thomas More and his Daughter.

believed it; and, when More said that he could not, Henry threw him into prison. After being kept there for a whole year, he *was brought* out to be tried. And, as he

still refused to say that the king was the head of the church, he was sentenced to death.

6. On his way back to prison, the headsman walked by his side with the edge of his axe turned towards him, to show the people that he was to die. As he went, first his son pressed through the crowd to ask his blessing, and then his daughter, Margaret Roper, fell upon his neck, and kissed him and wept over him.

7. Her grief was so great and touching, that even the rough soldiers shed tears, and More himself broke down a little, though up to that time he had kept quite calm and steady.

8. He went very cheerfully to his death. When he laid his head upon the block, he said to the headsman: 'Let me put my beard out of the way, for that at least has never committed treason.' His head was put on a spike on London Bridge, but Margaret Roper went one night in a boat, and took it down and carried it home in her arms.

ex-e-cu'-tion	**chan'-cel-lor**	**be-lieved'**	**heads'-man**
al'-ways	**ad-vis'-er**	**re-fused'**	**cheer'-ful-ly**
Chel'-sea	**re-lig'-ious**	**sen'-tenced**	**com-mit'-ted**

Chelsea, a suburb in the west of London, on the Thames. In More's time it was a little country village.

London Bridge, in More's time had gates at both ends. These gates had spikes fixed on the top, and on these spikes the heads of traitors—that is, persons who had offended the king—were placed.

26. Lady Jane Grey.

1554 A.D.

[Edward VI. was the only son of Henry VIII., and followed his father on the throne. Edward was quite a boy when he began to reign, and was only sixteen years old at his death. After him, his sisters Mary and Elizabeth wore the crown of England.]

1. After the boy-king Edward VI., his two half-sisters, the daughters of Henry VIII., were the nearest to the throne. But Mary, the elder of them, was a Roman Catholic; and Edward, who was a Protestant, had been persuaded to make a will setting aside his sisters. In this will he left the crown to his Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey.

2. The person who chiefly persuaded him to do this was the Duke of Northumberland. The reason why the duke acted in this way was to make his own family great and powerful. Lady Jane had been married to his son, Lord Guildford Dudley, and he had hopes of one day seeing his son king of England.

3. Poor Lady Jane did not at all want to be queen. She had never thought of such a thing, and she was very fond of her cousin Edward, and very much distressed to hear of his death. But, like Edward, she believed

that it would be a very sad thing for England if the old religion should come back again.

4. Then the duke and the rest of her family talked and talked, until at length they talked her over, and got her to believe that it was her duty to take the crown.

The Crown offered to Lady Jane Grey.

5. But at the very same time Mary was being proclaimed in another part of the country, and Northumberland had to get an army hastily together, and march off to fight against her supporters.

6. Hardly anybody on the way seemed friendly to him, for he was much disliked, and all the people thought Mary had the

best right to the throne. So the duke lost heart, and gave in almost directly.

7. Thus, after playing at being queen for just ten days, Lady Jane was very glad to go back to her own home and her books, and live quietly again. But Mary was not generous enough to let her stay there.

8. She shut up both her and her husband in the Tower for eight months, and then had them beheaded. Lady Jane and her husband were put to death on the same day, but not in the same place. And, just before Jane was taken out to her own death, she saw from the window her husband's body being brought back all bleeding from Tower Hill.

9. But Lady Jane was very patient and good. Even after this dreadful sight, her courage did not give way, and she died quite calmly and bravely, and like the good Christian she was. And she was so young! She was only seventeen when she died!

Pro'-test-ant	**cous'-in**	**dis-tressed'**	**gen'-er-ous**
per-suad'-ed	**fam'-i-ly**	**hast'-i-ly**	**pa'-tient**
chief'-ly	**Guild'-ford**	**sup-port'-ers**	**calm'-ly**
North-um'-ber-land	**Dud'-ley**	**qui'-et-ly**	**sev'-en-teen**

Protestant, one who protested against the doctrines of the pope.

The **Queen Mary** of this lesson is quite different from Mary Stewart. The first was queen of England. The other, Mary Stewart, was queen of Scotland, and is commonly *called* Mary Queen of Scots.

27. The Execution of Mary Stewart.

PUT TO DEATH IN 1587 A.D.

1. Mary Stewart was one of the most beautiful and charming, but also one of the most unhappy women that ever lived. She lost her father and became queen of Scotland when she was quite a baby. She was queen of France for about two years, and she lost her life in a vain attempt to become queen of England.

2. She was married to the king of France; but her husband died when she was about nineteen, and she came back to Scotland to rule her own kingdom. Here she had many difficulties, as she was a Catholic herself, and the people were strongly opposed to the Catholic faith.

3. Things grew very much worse through her unhappy marriages. For she married again twice, one of her husbands being a foolish, and the other a very bad man. Great crimes were done, for which Mary was blamed.

4. Then the Scotch rose in great anger, fought against their queen, defeated her, and confined her in Lochleven Castle. Here they made her sign a paper, saying that she gave up all her right to the throne to her little baby-boy, James VI. (afterwards

James I. of England). She escaped, was again defeated, and then fled to England, to ask help from her cousin, Queen Elizabeth.

5. But Elizabeth refused to help her to get back her crown. So Mary was kept a prisoner in England, first in one castle and then in another, for nineteen long and weary years.

6. Now the pope and his followers wanted her to be queen of England, instead of Eliza-

Lochleven Castle.

beth; and many persons kept making plots for this, but they were always found out.

7. At last, there arose a very bad plot, worse than any of the others, for killing *Elizabeth* and putting Mary on the throne.

Elizabeth, believing that Mary knew of this, and was helping in it, condemned her to death.

8. So one morning the head of a gray-haired woman, who was once the beautiful Queen of Scots, was struck off in the hall of Fotheringay Castle. Her beauty was worn away by her great troubles, although she was not at all old. Her servants, who loved her dearly, stood around weeping; and her little dog cowered frightened among the folds of her dress, and would not let any one move him away from her body.

at-tempt'	**de-feat'-ed**	**con-demned'**	**cow'-ered**
mar'-riag-es	**cas'-tle**	**Foth'-er-in-gay**	**fright'-ened**

Lochleven, a small lake in Kinross-shire, Scotland, in which there was a castle of the same name.
Fotheringay Castle, in Northamptonshire.

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28. The Invincible Armada.

1588 A.D.

1. Almost all the troubles and wars of Queen Elizabeth's reign arose out of the deadly hatred that existed between the Catholics and Protestants. This hatred raised enemies against her both at home and abroad.

2. The Roman Catholics hated her more than ever, for putting Mary Queen of Scots to death. King Philip of Spain made up his

mind that he would try to conquer England for himself, and to make it a Catholic country once more. So he fitted out a very large fleet, which he called 'The Invincible Armada'—that is to say, *The fleet that can never be beaten!*

3. It was a mighty fleet, consisting of one hundred and fifty ships, many of which were the largest that had ever been seen, and were like floating castles. The English had one hundred and forty ships altogether; but most of them were very small. Only five were as big as the very smallest vessel in the whole Armada. Philip hardly expected that the English would even think of attacking it. He thought his men would land easily in England, and that the Catholics throughout the country would rise and join them.

4. But he was mistaken. Much as the English Catholics loved their religion, they loved their country too well to give it over to a foreign ruler. The whole nation stood in arms quietly waiting for the coming of the Spanish host.

5. The English fleet was ready too. It was commanded by Lord Howard of Effingham, and under him were the great admirals Drake and Frobisher.

6. *At* last, in July 1588, the Armada

appeared in the English Channel, sailing along in the shape of a half-moon, seven miles from horn to horn! And now it was seen that the smallness of the English ships was not so much against them; for they could sail about much more quickly than the large and clumsy ships of Spain.

7. The English ships could not attack the whole Armada; but, if any of its ships happened to fall behind, they at once attacked them fiercely. At last one night, when the Spanish fleet lay near Calais, the English filled eight old ships with pitch and other things that burned long and furiously. These they towed towards the Spaniards, and after setting fire to them, let them drift among their ships.

8. The frightened Spaniards made with all the speed they could for the open sea, and were scattered to right and left. In this state they were attacked by the English, and got a terrible beating.

9. Afraid of meeting the English fleet again, they sought to return home round the north of Scotland and Ireland. But on their way they were overtaken by tremendous storms. Most of their ships were wrecked; and of the whole Invincible Armada, only fifty-four ships managed to get back to Spain.

in-vin'-ci-ble	Cath'-o-lics	Span'-ish	fright'-ened
Ar-ma'-da	Pro'-test-ants	Pro'-bish-er	scat'-tered
trou'-bles	con'-quer	ap-peared'	tre-men'-dous
ha'-tred	cas'-tles	clum'-sy	wrecked
ex-ist'-ed	at-tack'-ing	hap'-pened	man'-aged

pitch, tar. | towed, drew.

Philip was the nephew of Catharine of Aragon, the wife of Henry VIII.

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29. The Gunpowder Plot.

1605 A.D.

[The three children of Henry VIII. were Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth. With Elizabeth, who never was married, the family of Henry VIII. died out. But Henry's eldest sister was married to James IV. king of Scotland; and it was her great-grandson, James VI., that was rightful heir to the crown of England.]

1. When James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, the Roman Catholics had great hopes that they were going to have a better and easier time than they had had under Elizabeth. For James was the son of the Catholic queen Mary Stewart, and it was well known that he did not like the strict ways of the Protestants in Scotland.

2. So the Catholics of England thought that James would feel kindly towards them, and that the harsh laws which had been passed against them would be done away. In this they were disappointed. The laws were made more severe than before; and they gave up all *hope of* milder treatment from James.

3. One of them, a gentleman named Robert Catesby, was so angry at James, that he turned over and over in his mind what revenge he could take. At length a wicked, horrible idea came into his head.

4. This was no less than to blow up the House of Parliament with gunpowder, the next time the king, lords, and commons all met there together—and so to kill them all at once

5. They hired a cellar just underneath the Parliament House, and there they put thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, and covered them over with coals and fagots of wood, so that if anybody happened to look in, it would seem to be just a common coal-cellar, with a good stock of firing laid in.

6. One of the boldest and most daring of the plotters—a tall dark man called Guy Fawkes—kept watch there day and night. The 5th of November was the day that had been fixed for the meeting of parliament.

7. As it drew near, a gentleman named Francis Tresham, who had not very long known of the plot, became very uneasy and very unhappy. He had a dear friend in parliament, Lord Mounteagle, and he did not at all like the idea of his being blown up. At

last he wrote him a letter, warning him not to go near the House on the day of its opening.

Arrest of Guy Fawkes.

8. Lord Mounteagle showed this letter to King James ; and so the plot was found out. Guy Fawkes was taken on the very morning of

the 5th of November, just as he was looking out of the cellar to see that all was quite safe and sure, before making ready to set fire to the gunpowder. He was put to death, and the other plotters also lost their lives.

gun'-pow-der	**Ca'-tes-by**	**cel'-lar**	**Guy**
eas'-i-er	**re-venge'**	**bar'-rels**	**Fawkes**
dis-ap-point'-ed	**par'-lia-ment**	**fag'-ots**	**Mount'-ea-gle**

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30. The Execution of Charles I.

1649 A.D.

[James I. was succeeded by his son, Charles I.]

1. England is governed by a king, or queen, and a parliament. But when Charles I. was king, he tried for many years to rule without asking the advice of parliament at all.

2. Thus a great quarrel arose, which continued for a long time, and at last ended in fighting. Both sides took up arms, and England was for some time torn in pieces by dreadful wars.

3. For the most part, the nobles and clergymen were on the king's side. The friends of the king were called *Cavaliers*. They wore their hair long, and had very fine gay clothes, and were merry, laughing, and jolly when things went well with them. The friends of

the Parliament, who wore short hair, and so were called *Roundheads*, were mostly grave, earnest men, very sober in their dress.

4. Now, the Cavaliers fought very bravely, and gained several victories. But things began to go against them, until at last, at the great battle of Naseby, they were utterly defeated and put to rout. Soon after, the king fell into the hands of his enemies. They did not treat him badly, but allowed him to live, first at one country-house, and then another.

5. Oliver Cromwell, the great leader of the parliamentary army, tried very hard to make peace between the king and the Roundheads, and to bring back a better state of things to the country. But although Charles pretended to want this too, all the time he was secretly trying to raise another army, and to go to war again.

6. He was sent to Hampton Court, and to one or two other places, and at last he was brought to London to be tried for high treason. He was publicly tried and condemned to death; and he is the only one of our kings who has ever gone through such a trial.

7. Many people were sorry for him, and very angry with his judges, but they were too *much afraid* of the army to show it. As the

king was leaving the court, one of the soldiers said, 'God bless you!' and his officer struck him in the face.

8. Now that all hope was over, Charles showed real strength, dignity, courage, and patience; and he met his death calmly and piously, and as became a king. He was beheaded on the 30th of January 1649, in front of his own palace of Whitehall.

gov'-erned	**ear'-nest**	**pre-tend'-ed**	**dig'-ni-ty**
piec'-es	**de-feat'-ed**	**se'-cret-ly**	**pa'-tience**
Cav'-a-liers	**par-lia-ment'-ar-y**	**con-demned'**	**Jan'-u-ar-y**

parliament, the council of the nation.

Naseby, a village in Northamptonshire.

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31. The Plague and the Fire of London.

1665–6 A.D.

[For some years after the execution of Charles I., there was no king in England. Cromwell was the chief man in the country. On Cromwell's death there was great disorder; and men were glad to get a king again. So Charles II., the son of Charles I., was made king.]

1. In the reign of Charles II., there came on London a most terrible Plague, which raged with awful violence for more than six months. The sufferings of the poor Londoners were such as cannot be described, and can hardly be believed.

2. Sometimes people were taken ill, and

died almost immediately. Others were forsaken by all their friends and relations. In their agony and terror, the poor creatures flung themselves from their windows, or jumped into the river.

3. The houses where the plague was, were marked by a red cross on the doors, and the words, 'Lord, have mercy upon us.' No one went in or out; but food was left outside, and those who were able fetched it in.

4. Every night, carts went round to collect the dead; and they were all buried together in long ditches, without any friend to follow them to the grave, or having any service said over them. People lost their senses through fear.

5. The very panic helped the plague to spread; for nothing makes people so ready to catch a disease as being afraid of it. Another thing which was against the people of London was the sad state of the city. The houses were very old, and were built so close together that hardly any fresh air could get in. And, above all, they were not *clean.*

6. But a terrible remedy was at hand; and all the filthy old streets were soon to be swept *away.* Nearly a year after the plague had

begun to mend, and when people were once more beginning to feel safe and comfortable, a tremendous fire broke out in London.

7. It raged fiercely for three days and three nights, lighting up all the country for ten miles round. The summer had been hot and dry, and the old wooden houses burned most furiously.

8. The houses were so near together, too, that the fire could not be kept from spreading so long as there was anything to burn. It was only stopped at last by blowing up all the buildings round about with gunpowder, so that there was nothing for the flames to catch.

9. Thirteen thousand houses and ninety churches were burned, and, what was much more sad, two hundred thousand people were left without homes.

ter'-ri-ble	friends	ditch'-es	com'-fort-a-ble
plague	re-la'-tions	serv'-ice	tre-men'-dous
vi'-o-lence	ag'-on-y	dis-ease'	fierce'-ly
Lon'-don-ers	crea'-tures	rem'-e-dy	build'-ings
be-lieved'	col-lect'	be-gin'-ning	gun'-pow-der

panic, great terror. | **remedy**, cure.

32. The Siege of Londonderry.

1689 A.D.

[Charles II. was followed on the throne by his brother, James II.]

1. James II. was a Catholic, and confessed that he was one; but he promised to support the English Church, and to be fair and just to Protestants. He broke his promises, however, so often, that at last the English sent for his daughter Mary, and her husband, Prince William of Orange, to come and reign instead of him.

2. James fled to France, where the king received him very kindly, and offered to lend him soldiers to try to get his kingdom back. James was very anxious to do this, and thought the best plan would be to begin with Ireland, because so many of the Irish were of his religion, that he would be likely to meet with more friends there than in England or Scotland.

3. So he went to Ireland with a French army, and laid siege to the town of Londonderry. It held out for nearly four months; and all that time no help whatever, no soldiers, or arms, or food, or anything, could come *from outside.*

4. There were no proper walls and defences to keep out the enemy, and very few regular soldiers to fight him. The governor was false to his trust, and wanted to give the city up at once to James; but the people put him into prison, and chose a good old clergyman named George Walker to govern Londonderry instead of him.

5. The besieged fought so well, that the enemy gave up the idea of beating them, and surrounded the city to starve it out. This had nearly succeeded, for by the end of three months there was hardly an eatable thing left in Londonderry—only a few lean old horses and some rats.

6. As time went on, it seemed as if the people must just lie down and die; for all their strength was gone, and the want of proper food had brought on dreadful diseases. But still they would not give in! And then, at last, help did come.

7. King William sent orders to some ships in the river that they were to force their way to help Londonderry, at whatever risk or loss. Thus, through much fighting and danger, food was brought to the poor famished people.

8. Two days afterwards, the French and Irish army went sullenly away, disappointed.

And thus the siege of Londonderry was at an end.

siege	Or'-ange	de-fen'-ces	eat'-a-ble
Lon'-don-der-ry	re-ceived'	reg'-u-lar	dis-eas'-es
Cath'-o-lic	of'-fered	gov'-ern-or	fam'-ished
con-fessed'	anx'-ious	sur-round'-ed	sul'-len-ly
daugh'-ter	re-lig'-ion	suc-ceed'-ed	dis-ap-point'-ed

famished, extremely hungry. | **sullenly**, very sulkily.

Londonderry, a town in the north of Ireland.

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33. The Black Hole of Calcutta.

1756 A.D.

1. There lies in the far East a large and rich country called India. This country belongs to the English; and our Queen is called the **Empress of India.**

2. More than a hundred years ago, there was a wicked ruler in India who was Nabob of Bengal. This ruler led a great army against Calcutta, because he heard that the East India Company had very great treasures there, and he wanted to get them for himself.

3. The English were quite unprepared, and they were not used to fighting; and so they were easily beaten, and one hundred and fifty prisoners fell into the hands of the Nabob.

4. *It* was the very hottest time of all the

year in India, very much hotter than the hottest day we ever have in this country. And in Calcutta there was a miserable little stuffy prison which ought long before to have been done away with. It was so small, and so little air could get in, that it would have been cruel to shut up half-a-dozen people in it in any weather. It was called the *Black Hole.*

5. When the Nabob's soldiers ordered the English prisoners into it, they thought it was a joke, and laughed! But it was no joke! It was a terrible fact. The soldiers drove them in at the point of the bayonet, and locked the door upon them.

6. They suffered such misery as no one can even think of, and no pen can describe; and when they prayed for mercy, the soldiers said that the Nabob was asleep, and nothing could be done till he awoke. When he did awake, all the prisoners were dead except twenty-three. Those who remained alive looked like old men. They came out pale, tottering, and haggard; and they were so changed by that one night's suffering, that not even their best friends would have known them.

Cal-cut'-ta	**Na'-bob**	**laughed**	**re-mained'**
Coun'-try	**treas'-ures**	**bay'-o-net**	**tot'-ter-ing**
Emp'-ress	**mis'-er-a-ble**	**suf'-fered**	**hag'-gard**

bayonet, a short three-edged dagger fixed on the end of a musket.

Nabob, an Indian prince.

haggard, very lean and hollow-eyed.

Bengal, a large province in India.

Calcutta, the capital of British India.

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34. The Tea in Boston Harbour.

1773 A.D.

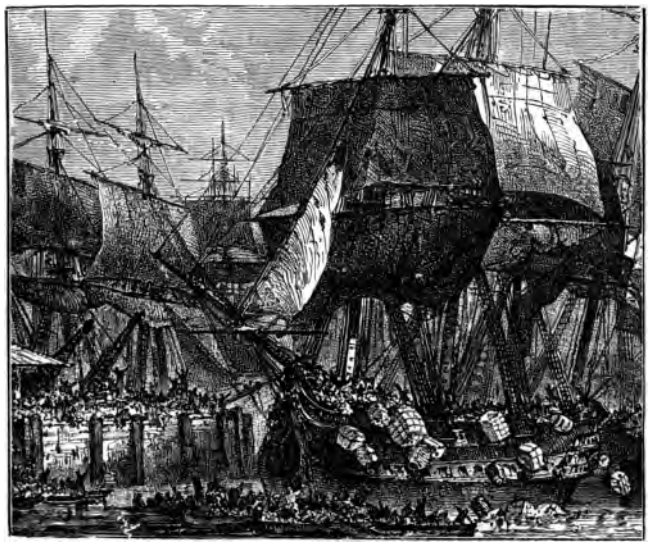
1. The United States of America are peopled, for the most part, by the English and their descendants. Indeed, until about a hundred years ago, they belonged to England, as Canada still does.

2. But a great quarrel arose between us and our colonies about a tax upon tea. Now the Americans thought this tax unfair, and they were quite firm about not paying it. So they made up their minds to do without tea altogether.

3. But some English ships laden with tea were sent out to Boston, one of their chief ports; and this angered the people of Boston so much, that a mob of them, dressed like Red Indians, forced their way on board, and threw all the tea brought by the ships into the sea. This made the English in their turn very angry; and out of it grew a war between the *two countries*.

4. It was the fashion in England to look down upon the Americans, and to think that they were cowardly, and would be very easily beaten. But this was soon found to be a mistake.

5. Some quite untrained American soldiers held Bunker Hill, near Boston, for some



The Scene in Boston Harbour.

time against the English, and as they drove them back down the hillside, they shouted out: 'Are the Yankees cowards?' In that battle the Americans were obliged to give way at last,

but they shut up the enemy in Boston for the whole winter.

6. The leader of the Americans in this great war was George Washington, a great and good man. He was sometimes defeated on the battle-field, but he never lost heart. He was at length completely victorious; the English had to confess themselves beaten; and the American States cut themselves free from England, chose their own rulers, and called themselves the 'United States.' All this happened in the reign of our King George III., the grandfather of Queen Victoria.

U-ni'-ted	col'-on-ies	fash'-ion	com-plete'-ly
A-mer'-i-ca	ai-to-geth'-er	cow'-ard-ly	vic-to'-ri-ous
de-scend'-ants	Bos'-ton	Yan'-kees	hap'-pened
Can'-a-da	In'-di-ans	Wash'-ing-ton	Vic-to'-ri-a

Canada, the British part of North America.
Boston, a town on the north-eastern coast of the United States.
Yankees, another name for the Americans.

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35. The Battle of Trafalgar.

1805 A.D.

1. During the reign of George III., a soldier, Napoleon Bonaparte, became very famous in France, and was in the end made emperor of that country. He conquered nearly all Europe, and wished very much to *beat the* English at sea.

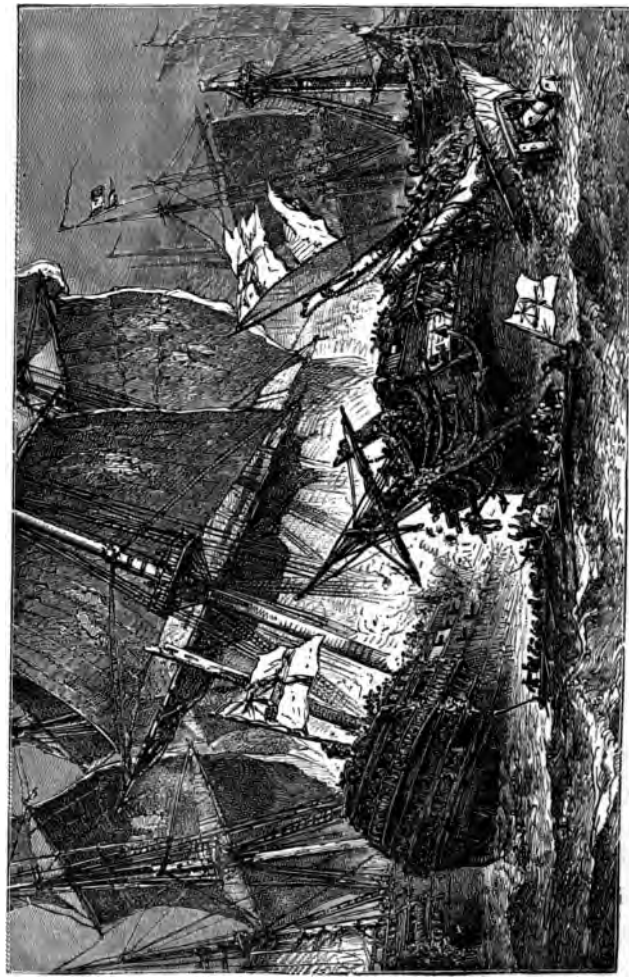
2. But that was a very difficult business. The English ships and sailors have always been famous; and the French have never been so good at fighting by sea as by land.

3. Napoleon, however, got the Spaniards to join him, and he hoped with their fleet and his own together to be able to crush the English. But he was mistaken. The English ships which went out to meet them were commanded by the greatest admiral that ever lived, Horatio Nelson.

4. He met the French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar in Spain; and there a great battle was fought, called the Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson's order for the fight will never be forgotten. It was in these words: '*England expects every man to do his duty.*' And well every man did his duty.

5. Nelson's ship was called the *Victory.* It was posted in the hottest part of the battle, and Nelson was on deck in his admiral's coat, with all his medals and stars on it—a good mark for the enemy to shoot at.

6. When the battle had lasted about two hours, he was struck by a ball on the left shoulder and terribly wounded. He was carried below, and there he lay in great pain for about three hours.



Battle of Trafalgar.

7. Before he died, news was brought him of the great victory the English had won, and this made him very happy. His last words were: 'Thank God, I have done my duty!' The French and Spanish fleets were completely beaten, and Napoleon did not try again to fight the English by sea.

Tra-fal'-gar	**dif'-fi-cult**	**mis-tak'-en**	**for-got'-ten**
Na-pol'-eon	**business**	**ad'-mir-al**	**med'-als**
Bon'-a-parte	(*biz'-nes*)	**Hor-a'-ti-o**	**shoul'-der**
emp'-er-or	**Span'-iards**	**Nel'-son**	**com-plete'-ly**

admiral, a high officer in the navy, answering to general in the army.

Trafalgar, a cape on the south-west coast of Spain.

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36. The Battle of Waterloo.

1815 A.D.

1. We have seen that the great general, Napoleon, conquered nearly the whole of Europe. At last, most of the nations of Europe joined against him. He was completely defeated, and sent as a prisoner to Elba, a little island among the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea. It was thought he would be quite safe there; but the very next year he escaped, and was in Paris again.

2. His old soldiers were so glad to see him back, that he soon had as large an

army as ever at his command. Meanwhile, Europe was getting ready to fight him again. England and Prussia were the first to be ready.

3. The English were commanded by the Duke of Wellington, and the Prussians by Marshal Blücher. They met the French on the 18th of June 1815, at a place called Waterloo, not very far from Brussels, the capital of Belgium; and there a great battle was fought.

4. The fight lasted all day, and the greatest bravery was shown on both sides. It began between the French and the English alone. It was evening when Blücher brought up his sturdy Prussians to help the English.

5. From that moment, Napoleon had not the smallest chance. He was thoroughly beaten, and fled from the field.

6. Afterwards, he fell into the hands of the English, and he was again imprisoned. This time, however, he was sent to a far-off lonely island in the Atlantic Ocean, called St Helena. From this small rocky island there was no chance of his escaping, and there, after five long weary years, he died.

Eu'-rope	**Well'-ing-ton**	**cap'-i-tal**	**im-pris'-oned**
El'-ba	**Blü'-cher**	**Bel'-gi-um**	**At-lan'-tic**
is'-land	**Wa-ter-loo'**	**brav'-er-y**	**O'-cean**
Med-i-ter-ra'-ne-an	**Brus'-sels**	**thor'-ough-ly**	**Hel-e'-na**

Elba, a small island between Corsica and Italy.
Prussia, a country in the north of Germany.
Belgium, a small country south of Holland.

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37. The Abolition of Slavery.

1833 A.D.

1. On the map of the New World, between North and South America, we can see a great many islands scattered about the sea. These are called the West Indies, and many of them belong to England.

2. They are beautiful islands, with palms and orange groves, and sugar-canes, growing on them. Owners of land there found, long ago, that they could make a great deal of money by the sugar and the coffee and the spices which they could grow and send home to England.

3. But work-people were needed to look after the coffee and the sugar—to hoe, dig, and plant, and to gather in the crops. And it was found that no white man could bear to work hard under the blazing sun of the West Indies.

4. Negroes, however, who are born in a hot climate, can work there without its doing them any harm. And so, in the time of

Queen Elizabeth, or soon after, a wicked custom arose. English ships used to go to Africa, and there the crews used to kidnap the poor, wretched Negroes, and bring them away in their ships—men, women, and children, all huddled together in chains—and take them to do the work of the West India Islands.

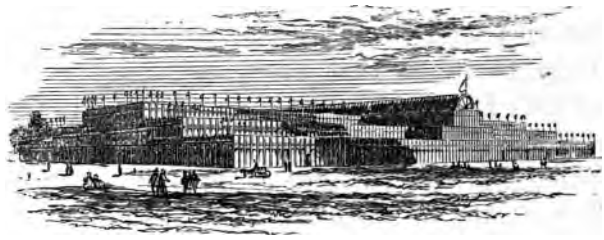
5. They were driven to their work with a whip, just as we drive cattle, and were often most cruelly used. All this went on for a long time. At last Englishmen at home began to see the wickedness and cruelty of it, and what a disgrace it was to our country to permit it.

6. Some good men set to work, and they worked very hard to get a law made to forbid this crime. These friends of the poor Negro worked on; until in 1833—only fifty years ago!—every slave in every country belonging to England was made a freeman, and slavery had ceased to exist on English soil.

ab-ol-i'-tion	own'-ers	cli'-mate	cru'-el-ly
slav'-er-y	su'-gar	kid'-nap	wick'-ed-ness
beau'-ti-ful	spi'-ces	wretch'-ed	dis-grace'
or'-ange	Ne'-groes	hud'-dled	per-mit'

abolition, doing away with. | **kidnap**, carry off by force.

West India Islands, a set of islands which lie between North *America* and South America.



38. **The Great Exhibition.**

1851 A.D.

1. Not far from London, on one of the round green hills of Surrey, stands a large building of glass and iron, which is known to all the country as **The Crystal Palace.** Those who have gone to see this strange and vast building, will know what pretty things and what wonderful things are in it.

2. But many people do not know the history of the Crystal Palace—why it was built, and why it stands on one of the Surrey hills. It was not always, as it is now, just a pleasure place at Sydenham.

3. There was once a great and good German prince who married our Queen Victoria, and whom we most often call Prince Albert. Well, it is to him that we owe the Crystal Palace.

4. He thought what a good thing it would be for all the world if some one were to open a great show-place, and let all the different

countries send their most beautiful and useful things to it, so that everybody might come and look at them.

5. Mr Joseph Paxton, who was the head-gardener of the Duke of Devonshire, down in Chatsworth, in Derbyshire, thought that the building for such an exhibition would be very ugly if it were of brick. So he took an idea from one of his own hot-houses, and made it of glass and iron. A fairy house!

6. On the 1st of May 1851, the Great Exhibition was opened in Hyde Park. And a very gay day that was in London, and everybody was delighted.

7. The Exhibition was kept open for about six months, and then the building was taken to pieces and carried to Sydenham, and put together again as the Crystal Palace. But it was made much longer and higher and broader, and very high towers were added to it. In this way it has grown to be one of the largest buildings in the world.

ex-hib-i'-tion	pleas'-ure	coun'-tries	Chats'-worth
Sur'-rey	Sy'-den-ham	Pax'-ton	Der'-by-shire
crys'-tal	Vic-to'-ri-a	gar'-den-er	fair'-y
pal'-ace	Al'-bert	Dev'-on-shire	de-light'-ed

Surrey, the county south of Middlesex.
Sydenham, a suburb of London, in Surrey.

39. The Charge of the Light Brigade.

1854 A.D.

1. The reign of Queen Victoria has been, on the whole, a peaceable one. We have only been engaged in one European war. That was to defend Turkey from the Russians.

2. England and France joined together, to help the Turks to fight against the Russians. So they sent armies to the Crimea, a part of Russia which runs out into the Black Sea, and which is very near Turkey.

3. It was very cold and wet there, and there was a great deal of illness among the English soldiers. For a long time there was nobody to look properly after the sick men.

4. But by-and-by, an English lady, whose name was Florence Nightingale, heard of their sufferings, and she went out to the Crimea herself, and took nurses with her, and tended the sick and wounded, and saw that they were made as easy and comfortable as possible. You may think how the poor soldiers—and indeed all England—loved her!

5. There was one battle in the Crimean War which no Englishman should ever forget, and yet it was one which was nothing but a

blunder, and in which we met with terrible loss. That was the glorious Charge of Balaklava.

6. Nobody knows to this day who made the mistake, but a wrong order was given. The six hundred men of the Light Brigade were told to make a charge right up to the mouth of the Russian cannon. Officers and men all knew quite well that such an order ought not to have been given; but that did not matter. They also knew that their duty was only to obey.

7. Not a man flinched! They rode gallantly up to the deadly cannon; and when they returned from the charge, less than half their number remained. All the rest were killed!

bri-gade'	Eu-ro-pe'-an	glo'-ri-ous	can'-non
peace'-a-ble	Cri-me'-a	Bal-a-klav'-a	gal'-lant-ly

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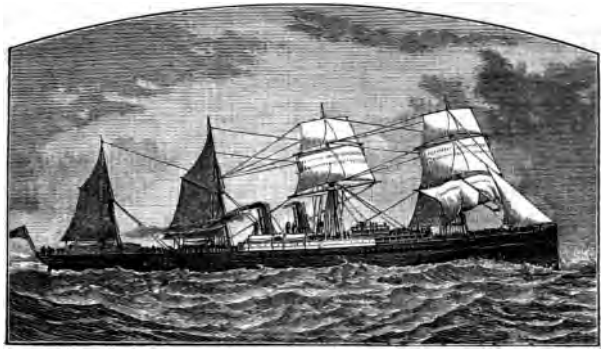
40. From Julius Cæsar to Victoria.

55 B.C. TO 1882 A.D.

1. The story of England began with Julius Cæsar, and now ends with the good Queen Victoria. It is a most wonderful story, which every English boy and girl ought to know.

2. It is the story of a country whose inhabitants were little better than savages *when* Julius Cæsar landed.

3. How changed is everything now! The country is now studded with large cities, which are full of busy, well-dressed people, living at peace with each other, and obedient to the



laws. We have steamships that carry our iron and cotton goods to the most distant places of the earth, and bring home the tea, and coffee, and corn which form our daily food. For many centuries, no foreign enemy has touched the soil of England. The Queen of Britain is also the Empress of India.

4. It has been through wonderful changes that we have got to our present position. First, the Romans came and ruled this island for nearly four hundred years.

5. Next, the brave and hardy Angles settled in the country, and gave it the name of England.

6. Then came the fierce Danes, who fought with the English for many a long year on many a bloody field, but the English remained masters of the soil.

7. Next, William the Conqueror made himself master of England, and divided the land among his valiant Normans.

8. Most of our early kings were very harsh and severe. In a long struggle since the time of the Great Charter, the people have gained the right to be governed by just laws made in Parliament by men of their own choosing.

9. The people who once lived only on this island, have planted colonies which cover a fourth of the land surface of the globe, and carry on trade with every country in the world.

10. Thus we now live in peace and prosperity under the rule of our gracious Queen. But we should never forget that it has been through the labours and sufferings of many good and brave men that a country which began as ours did, is now one of the happiest in the world.

in-hab'-it-ants	cen'-tu-ries	val'-iant	pros-per'-i-ty
sav'-a-ges	pos-i'-tion	gov'-erned	gra'-cious
stud'-ded	re-mained'	Par'-lia-ment	la'-bours
o-be'-di-ent	con'-quer-or	col'-on-ies	suf'-fer-ings

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